

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This action is harmful to our democracy and counter to the purpose of serving the public interest to which Sinclair stations are legally obligated. In fact, it smacks of the state-sanctioned propaganda aired as "news" under totalitarian regimes. The media laws must be enforced to ensure that the public is provided with useful, balanced information.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Airing clearly partisan programming like "Stolen Honor" (particularly during this crucial pre-election period) is contrary to that purpose and imperils our democracy. Because Sinclair is so large and powerful, they can practically monopolize the airwaves for narrow political and economic purposes - this is one of the dangers of allowing rampant media consolidation. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we urgently need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Please do what you can to keep the airwaves functioning in the public interest. Thank you.